

HALE et al  
Appl. No. 09/998,923  
November 7, 2005

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY****AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of screening a test mammal to determine whether said test mammal is at an increased risk for cancer comprising assaying for the level of zinc  $\alpha$ -2-glycoprotein (ZAG) present in a serum sample from said test mammal and comparing that level to the level of ZAG present in a serum sample from a control, non-tumor bearing mammal, wherein said test mammal and said control mammal are of the same species and the ZAG level in the serum samples from the test mammal and the control mammal are assayed using the same technique, and wherein an elevated level of ZAG in the serum sample from said test mammal relative to said control ~~is indicative of the presence of~~ indicates that said test mammal is at an increased risk for cancer.

Claims 2 and 3 (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the level of ZAG is assayed using an immunoassay, chromatography, electrophoresis, or solid phase affinity or densitometry of a Western blot.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein the level of ZAG is assayed using an antigen capture or competitive immunoassay.

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6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said test mammal is suspected of having prostate cancer.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claims 8-19 (Cancel).